

## Essays and Contributions.

### WHY SHOULD THE YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANIZE?

BY C. F. YODER.

Every now and then one meets a good moral person who sees no reason for the church or any of its varied services. Who perhaps are able to live a decent life themselves without it but are too short-sighted to see that others cannot; who are willing to kick down the very ladder by which they climbed up; who are willing enough to enjoy the fruits of Christianity themselves, but are unwilling to aid in providing the same blessings for posterity. I have been asked "can a truly good person who does not belong to church go to heaven? To such I reply that the condition is impossible because there is some element of a truly good character lacking when a person knowing what the church has done and is doing for humanity, will refuse to lend his influence to it.

The good moral man who knowing the necessity for the church stands aloof from it, lacks the spirit of obedience, and if he does not see the necessity for it he at any rate lacks trust in God, for no one can believe in the Bible and not in the church although that book opposes nothing more strongly than formality and always places the spirit before the letter of the law.

The church is however temporary and joining it does not save the soul.

John in his vision of the New Jerusalem says "I saw no temple there." The city of the future when "His servants shall serve him" will be a city without a church but as long as Christianity has not penetrated to the uttermost parts of the earth nor the Christ spirit the mind of men within its reach there is need of the church and all its machinery.

It affords the encouragement of company and the inspiration of numbers, it affords to all the benefit of the experience of each so that the best methods of working are known to all; it affords the systematic distribution of effort so that money and personal work may be invested where and when and in the way in which they will do the

most good; it affords a home for the soul, an environment whose influence is only good, an environment which is as necessary to the soul as sunlight and air to the growth of the plant. Its influence in a community not reckoning the conversions through it is an enormous uplifting power while who can know its value in bringing men into that light which transforms the innermost being and engenders that blessed life which "Is hid with Christ in God."

I have submitted the above reasons for the church because the same can be said for a young people's organization but since these results are already attained through the church unless something further can be said for our organization it can have no reason for existence. Nothing exists without a mission. Nothing has any right to come into existence unless there be a demand or necessity for it. Supply follows demand.

Now in this age of wonders, this age of mighty achievements and peaceful revolutions a movement has come into and has sped around the world with a grandeur and power that eclipses all the others. Has there been a demand for young people's organization? Wherefore this marshalling of young people? Wherefore this aggressiveness, this sudden awakening of youthful energies which is verily "turning the world up-side-down." What the cause and what the portent? Methinks an angel from heaven has sounded his trumpet proclaiming to the young people of earth "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.... Lift up thine eyes round about and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee..... A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation."

The next generation is to witness wondrous works in the kingdom of God. The King of Glory wants a mighty army filled with faith and power to bind the enemy satan for a thousand years to come.

The world cries out for a more practical christianity, more spirit, less form, more practice, less precept; more activity, less exclusiveness. It asks for

a christianity which is more real and common, which is as much a part of ones daily thought and conversation as politics or business.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS DEMAND.

The hosts of King's Children are marshalling in an army of Endeavor. The power of God backs up the movement. His spirit hovers o'er it. What will it accomplish? What is it accomplishing? Are you familiar with the movement? Survey with me a moment if you please a few of the results which follow in its wake.

1. It creates an interest and enthusiasm among the young people that the church cannot create. It is something their very own which they control and must make a success. It gives to each a feeling of responsibility and a realization that the master's business requires action, energetic and constant, on the part of all.

2. It provides work for hitherto almost idle hands. The talents which are to be put out at usury need not be buried until the time of reckoning. Labors need not stand idle until the eleventh hour. Though heaven be gained by a tardy service yet how much better that the service begin in the Maytime and morning of life.

Why should nine lepers of the ten who are cleansed go ungrateful on their own way? Why should only the wreck and ruin of life be used in the Kingdom? Too long has it been that the young people have not been expected to do anything but keep quiet in church. Young people's societies provide for activity. Christian work in general and committee work in particular engage the attention of Junior, Senior one and all.

3. Not only does it provide work for idle hands but it provides hands for needed work.

Those who have been inactive suddenly desire to have their part in the organization. Young people not Christians are brought into the society as associate members and then pass on to active service. All the young people feel that it interests them more or less and the society becomes an avenue to better lives,—a gateway to the church.

4. It impresses the fact upon the